Upgradation of Ahmedabad and Surat Airports

1522. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Ahmedabad Airport has been upgraded;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Surat Airport has also been developed; and

(d) if so, the extend to which the burden of air traffic at Mumbai Airport has reduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at Ahmedabad has been developed and upgraded for international operations. The Works completed are construction of terminal building for a capacity of 400 passengers at domestic and 500 passengers at international terminals, extension and strengthening of runway from 9000 ft. to 11000 ft. extensnon and strengthening of apron, strengthening of existing taxi-track, development of a car park, installation of Cat-I lighting system and associated works.

(c) Surat Airport belongs to the State Government of Gujarat. State Government has plans to develop this airport in phases for operation Airbus AB-320 class of Aircraft.

(d) There has been no appreciable shift in the air traffic from Mumbai International Airport to the Ahmedabad International Airport after upgradation of Ahmedabad Airport in May,. 2000.

Operational Airports in Rajasthan

1523. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports alongwith their names in Rajasthan;

(b) the airports out of wese, which are not in working conditions and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to open more airports for small aircraft to increase tourism flow in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains three airports at Jaipur, Udaipur and Kota and three Civil Enclaves at Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. All these airports are operational. At present, AAI do not have any plan to construct new airports in the State of Rajasthan due to lack of traffic demand. Besides, the State Government of Rajsthan maintains 26 airstrips at Alwar, Abu Road, Bharatpur, Bhawi, Bundi, Bahai, Banaswara, Dholpur, Faina, Gadra Road, Isarda, Jawai Sumerpur, Jhalwar, Jhunjhunu, Lalgarh, Malpura, Mathonia, Merta Raod, Nagaur, Shahpur, Sirodhi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Falna, Pali and Sojat.

Purchase of New Aircraft by Air India

†1524. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts with Air India in the country which are engaged in carrying passengers;

(b) the number of extra aircrafts actually needed at present;

(c) whether Government propose to purchase passenger aircrafts from other countries to meet this requriement; and

(d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The fleet of Air India consists of 27 aircraft (including four aircraft on dry lease).

(b) to (d) In view of the disinvestment, it was found desirable that the decisions regarding major capital expenditure and purchase of new aircraft be deterred. However, Air India have taken 4 A310-300 aircraft on dry lease with a view to augment its routes and passengers carrying capacity to meet the short term requirement.

Special concession offered by banks

1525. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 541 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th April, 2001 and state:

(a) the Boars of how many nationalized banks, Indian private banks,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.